

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A composition containing comprising β -glucan, characterized by comprising as active ingredients: a cultured composition containing β -1,3-1,6-glucan obtained by culturing a bacterium belonging to the genus *Aureobasidium* sp.; and lactic acid bacterium *Enterococcus faecalis* cells that are killed by a heat treatment.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The composition containing comprising β -glucan according to claim 1, wherein the bacterium belonging to the genus *Aureobasidium* sp. is *Aureobasidium pullulans* M-1 (FERM BP-08615).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The composition containing comprising β -glucan according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a content of the cultured composition in terms of β -1,3-1,6-glucan in solid matters of the composition ranges from 1 to 80% by mass, and a content of the lactic acid bacterium cells in solid matters of the composition ranges from 4 to 95% by mass.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A constipation-relieving drug, comprising as an active ingredient the composition containing comprising β -glucan according to any one of claims 1 to 3 Claim 1.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An immunopotentiator, comprising as an active ingredient the composition ~~containing~~ comprising β -glucan according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A skin moisturizer, comprising as an active ingredient the composition ~~containing~~ comprising β -glucan according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1.